A

LETTER

FROM

Mr. SCRUPLOUS, To TRIALOGUS

Concerning the Union

Edinburgh the 21th. October 1706.

SIR,

HAVING ſeen the Converſation of Mr. *Pro*, Mr. *Con.* and Mr. *Indifferent*, wherein I Obſerve Mr. *Con.* is much run down, and having ſome doubts of the ſufficiency of Mr. *Pro's* Arguments, whereof I would fain be ſatisfied, I deſire to be admitted into the Conferances if it pleaſe you to Hon our me ſo much.

But at the entry, I Solemnly Declare theſe Doubts or Queſtions I have to move proceed not from any prejudice I have againſt an *Union*, there being no man more deſirous of a Happy one than my ſelf, neither do they proceed ſo much from a Confirmed Opinion in the Negative of ſuch Queſtions, as from a deſire to be ſolved of ſuch things as to me ſeem doubtful, and which I hear propounded by ſeverals, to which I can give no ſatisfying Anſwer.

It will without doubt be a very ſignal piece of Service to both Nations at this time to ſatisfy all concerned, that nothing is aim'd at by this Treaty of *Union* new on foot, but the mutual good and utility of both Kingdoms, and in order thereunto I ſhall lay before you ſome Queſtions or Doubts made by others, that you may furniſh me with ſutable Anſwers to them. And

Firſt, There are ſome, *Sir*, who notwithſtanding of the Inſtance given by you of Uniting the *Scots* and *Pictiſh* King-

doms into one called *Scotland*, are Jealous that ſhould *Scotland* be now Unitted with *England* in the ſame manner this Nation would Incur damnage by it, being the leſſer and weaker. And you know tha Proverb, The weakeſt muſt go to the Walls.

The many inſtances of the prejudices of the *Engliſh* both anciently and of late, how we have been contemned, neglected, abuſed and oppreſſed by them on all occaſion, creat Jealouſies that there is ſome Snake in the Graſs under their fair pretences.

The diſhonourable cliping the Wings of our Nobility and Abriging the Number of ſuch as have the common priviledges of Peerage, is lookt on as very diſagreeable ingredient of this intended *Union*.

The Anſwer given to Mr. *Pro*, that we are not to regard the bare Name and emptie Title, but rather choice the Subſtance, *viz*. Riches; which will truely make us great, and to have the thing that will merit the eſteem we claim by vertue of the empty Title, is not ſatisfyng, becauſe you do not ſo plainly ſhew that we ſhall gain the thing as it is certain we ſhall loſe the Name by this *Union*, and it will be hard to loſe that which we have, without aſſurance of obtaining what is promiſed.

To ſhew that their Jealouſies are not groundleſs, they ſay, we have already found a ſenſible dimunition of our Power and Wealth by the Non-Reſidence of our Soveraigns, and the great repair of Nobility and Gentry to the *Engliſh* Court. Our Treaſure and Effects being Exported for their Support there, and by the *Union* this Malidy will encraſe exceedingly. For,

Beſides what is required for the ſupport of our Courtiers, the whole publick Revenue after the *Union* muſt be carried

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out of the Kingdom, except ſome ſmall part of it, that will be neceſſary to pay the Soldiers, that ſhall remain in this Kingdom to keep us in awe.

2*dly.* They ſay it is more than probable that after the *U-nion* the *United Parliament* will find ſeveral things convenient for the United Body that will be inconvenient to this part of it in particular, ſuch as the Prohibition of the Export of Wool and Skins, the Importation of Muſlin, Cambrick and other Linnen, the ordering all People to Bury in Woollen, *&c.* as it is in *England*, and regard muſt be had to the greater part of the United Kingdom.

Some think it a Paradox to ſuppoſe one Parliament can Support two different Church Governments, and that ſuch an Oppinion is as inconſiſtant as to ſuppoſe a Man can have two Wills, it being impoſſible for him both to *Love* and Hate the ſame thing, upon one and the ſame Account.

Then it muſt neceſſarly follow, that not one Member in the *United Parliament*, but will have better liking to one of the Church Governments than the other, that Church who ſhall have moſt Intereſt in the Houſe will be fair to bear down the other, eſpecially ſeing each of them will be endeavouring to gain what Proſolits they can, and how precarious our Ecleſiaſtical Eſtabliſhment will be in that Caſe is eaſy to Gueſs.

That in caſe of a change of the Eccleſiaſtical Government in this part of the Iſland, the People who favour that way will be exceedingly exaſperated, and moſt of the beſt allyed and conſiderable Famelies being ſubjected to a mungral ſort of Peerage, will likewiſe be diſobliged on another account, which will put the whole Northeran part of the Iſle into a grumbling & ferment if not excite them to an open Rupture; this will give a favourable handle to the powering in of *Eng-*

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liſh Troops upon us, the Fortifying of Places, and keeping of ſtrong Garriſons, and the puting of *Engliſh men* or ſome of our own Nation that for their being *Engliſhed* too much will be as unexceptable as the *Engliſh* into the chief places of Power and Truſt, all which will rather encreaſe the Flame than abate it.

Now ſuppoſe all theſe things ſhould happen inſtead of the great benefit which is expected by the Communication of Trade; in what condition would we find our ſelves, or what hand could we turn to for relief.

I confeſs this is a very diſagreeable proſpect, but as there is nothing ſuppoſed but what may happen, it will be a great advantage to ſhew how ſuch Fatal conſequences may be provided againſt, and the *Union* advanced, upon Solid Durable and Honourable Terms, to the mutual content and advantage of both Nations, and not upon ſuch a Baſis as creats Fears, Jealouſies and Grumbling on all hands, for I hear the High Church Men in *England* are alſo afraid of their Eſtabliſhment and Trade by the *Union*.

I hope *Sir*; to ſatisfy a Scrupelous Man (or rather a People who have often been Guil'd by the *Engliſh*) you'l give a plain and convincing anſwer to theſe Quieries, or Solution of theſe doubts, by evident and ſolidid Arguments, for I can tell you before hand, that a ſuperfecial conjectural one will not be ſatisfying.

If the advantages this Nation ſhall reap by the intended *Union*, amount to no more but to *May Bes* and *Probabilities*, your Proof will but occaſion further doubts, and the *People* who are not too Credulous will in their Reply mind you of the Woman who reckoned upon her Chekens according to the number of the Eggs, when ſhe Set her Hen, not minding the contingencies that might prevent the production.

FINIS.

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